

AN
APPEAL
TO THE
PEOPLE OF ENGLAND,
ON THE
PRESENT SITUATION
OF
NATIONAL AFFAIRS,
AND TO THE
COUNTY OF NORFOLK,
ON SOME LATE
TRANSACTIONS AND REPORTS.

L O N D O N :

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At. to Adams

THE
P R E F A C E.

To the P U B L I C.

IT may be necessary perhaps to observe to you, that some Part of what follows was written, much about the Time of the Meeting at the Maid's Head, in Norwich; but the EDITOR presumes to think, that it is not the less applicable to the present Situation of Affairs. He had no other View in Writing at that Time, than his own private Satisfaction: till the late insolent Declaration of a neighbouring Power, and the unjustifiable Attempts on the County of Norfolk, and through them, upon the Kingdom in general, seemed

The P R E F A C E.

seemed to warrant, and call for the Publication of his Sentiments ; and prevailed over his Unwillingness to appear in Publick, arising from the Consciousness of his Inability to accomplish, though anxious to contribute towards the commendable Purpose of restoring Peace and Honour to the contending Parties ; which the total Silence of every one else has left so open, though of so much Importance to be taken Notice of. Should any one think himself pointed out by this Performance, it is to be premised, that the Writer has had not the least Intercourse or Connection with any one, so as to be influenced by any Prejudices : He only contends against publick Principles on general Grounds : He would not idly arrogate to himself Infallibility, by supposing that he is not liable to Error ; nor vainly lay Claim to Inspiration, by imagining that he can see into Futurity further than another. The Probability of his Opinions he submits to the Public, for whose Sake they are here brought forth.

A N

A P P E A L

T O T H E

PEOPLE OF ENGLAND,

A N D T H E

COUNTY OF NORFOLK, &c.

I Did not intend at first, to have troubled the Public with any Opinions, on the present Opposition of Sentiment, now prevailing in this County, which at first Sight, and without due Consideration, might only seem (though it had really no more than the Shadow of an Appearance) to reflect upon a Character, as contrary to the genuine Spirit of Peace, though much inclined to promote, as far as in his Power,
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the Tranquillity of this County, and the Welfare of this Nation, in Conjunction with that of America. Yet though silent hitherto, not less however interested, not less solicitous than any other for my Country's good, and from the utmost Abhorrence of the unworthy Methods which have been practised upon the Inhabitants of this County, from a thorough Detestation of the dangerous Measures which have been pursued to cast an Odium upon, to expose to Contempt and Reproach a Part of the Kingdom, which has been always distinguished for generous Independence and constitutional Loyalty, by holding them forth now as the Victims of bewildering Sophistry, of delusive Eloquence, and ill-grounded Opposition, by setting them in the most conspicuous Light as the Beginners of Sedition at Home, as the first Promoters of all the dreadful Consequences, which can never be separated from a State of Rebellion and Civil Discord; I can no longer forbear to lend a helping Hand towards rescuing them from so horrid an Imputation, to vindicate and assert, what I am confident of, their very different, their much more commendable and consistent Principles, by an Appeal to their Reason, and an Endeavour to promote that Line of Conduct, which their Country requires at their Hands at this critical Period; which is necessary to convince all Parties of our truly patriotick Attachment to the Cause of well regulated Liberty, in a due Subordination to the Laws, and the too much
abused,

abused, misrepresented Government of this Kingdom. Let me ask, What consistent Methods towards a Reconciliation can be proposed, which have not been offered, were the Americans inclined to accept any reasonable Terms? Have not Commissioners been appointed, and are now upon the Spot to treat with them? What prevents a Conference, but that restless, interested Spirit, which forgets all past Obligations, and centers only in Convenience to themselves? That the first Beginnings of Sedition, originated in this, that the Accounts we have had of their Intentions to be independent, long before they took any open Steps to accomplish it, are true, appears from their so resolutely adhering to that Point now, which is the only Bar to an Accommodation, and to their conferring with his Majesty's Commissioners. What else can be done to effect so desirable an End? Will People thus circumstanced, thus resolved, be more likely to attend to Reason, by the withdrawing your Fleets and Armies, from the Principle of Inability in us to stop their violent Proceedings? Is not this the Language held out by the Opposers of the present Measures? Do these avowed Sentiments abate of their Force, by being transplanted to the other Side of the Water, among Persons so disposed, as those who are now in Power there, who have been watching for such a favourable Opportunity, to throw off the Connections due from a protected to the Parent State? Reason will not admit of such a

Thought: No Language surely can prevail with us to concur in such an Opinion. Will they not rather take Advantage of our acknowledged Inferiority, and prescribe whatever Conditions may be most agreeable to their past Transactions? I am indeed for Peace, *but upon a substantial Foundation*; let us be prepared to enforce such Terms, as may ensure a *lasting Connexion* between us; such Terms alone can be serviceable to them and us; *such only can be reasonable*. Let us shew that we are able to compel, and then we may have a Prospect to persuade. How else can we be assured, that those who have shewn so strong an Inclination to break with us, at least so depraved an Attachment to Self-interest, will not again avail themselves, with the first Opportunity, of the languid Moments of Parental Inaction, and the forcible Ties of Brotherly Regard, which have already suspended too long the restraining Hand of Power? Happy would it have been for them and us, to have adopted the more vigorous Measures from the first; the Want of this hath been our Misfortune all along; this is now the necessary Requisite, and for which your hearty Concurrence is desired.—One Matter more remains to be considered here.—It has been objected to the raising of a Regiment, that, in Case of a Rupture with any other Power, (not at all unlikely) our Militia are sufficient to repel the bold Invader. I am happy to find that useful Body of Men rising into so much Esteem; for
which

which then our Thanks are so highly due to the Promoter of that Establishment, who is likewise one of the first to step forwards in his Country's Interest on all Occasions, of which the present Measure adopting in this County for our Defence and Welfare is so great an Instance. I have only to wish that these Opinions of our Militia, may be from the Heart in those who so lately avowed them, but we very well know what a Clamour has been raised by the Opposers of the present Administration, for sending away so many Regulars to America, and leaving the Kingdom, on that Account, in so defenceless a State. Yet when we are desirous, when we are using our Endeavours to recruit those Regiments upon the Establishment for our better Security, which cannot even be sent against America, but must remain nearer Home, Protests are signed; Petitions subscribed against it.

What did the Opposers of the Resolutions at the *Maid's Head*, in *Norwich* more, than set themselves against every Method which was offered, towards extricating this Country from the present Troubles? Contended with exciting, as far as they could, a Spirit of Disatisfaction, with reprobating every Measure, which had been espoused by Government, though unsuccessfully, yet we have no other sufficient Reason but to think sincerely, for the Establishment of a lasting Peace, they left some of you in a State of Alarm and Discontent, without producing

ducing a single Plan to effect so desirable a Purpose, as a permanent and honourable Agreement with America. Some, I cannot pretend to point out the very Persons who were the first Causes, and without Doubt they have taken Care to screen themselves from present Discovery, (*till the proper Time is come*) have taken Advantage of that unsettled State, from which they supposed you to be hardly recovered, to bring you on to the most desperate Attempts; and, well knowing that the worst of Consequences have proceeded, without much Care, from the most trifling Beginnings, they have endeavoured to enflame the Minds of the People in this County, and the Kingdom in general, by representing *an unarmed Peasantry*, an inconsiderable Mob, who had no other Object than a little good Meat and Drink, as a formidable Insurrection, as a People in Arms in favour of America; in Support of an ungrateful People. Not contented with this first most gross Imposition on the Publick, repeated Accounts of the Rise and Progress of the supposed Disturbance, have been given in the London Papers without Intermission, and always immediately followed with as false Reports of Risings in Cornwall.

Such Facts speak for themselves, and I leave the abused Inhabitants of this County, to judge of the Intentions of those, who have propagated such Rumours. But what Objections can be raised against the moderate and calm, though necessary Proposals holden out to this County?

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Are our Regiments to remain destitute of Men, and not to be filled up? The Militia I have the highest Opinion of, and should think those Men capable of any mischievous Intentions, who would refuse to call out those Guardians of British Liberty, and our excellent Constitution, upon any Emergency to warrant such a Step. But, because it may possibly happen, that we may be involved in a War with some other Power, through the artful Insinuations of American Emissaries, are we upon the bare Probability of it, on the first uncertain Alarm, to take these Men from their several Callings, and be at that unnecessary Expence, till we have a sure Proof of the Intentions of any Power against us? We all know the material Difference between the Constitution of the Army and Militia; the one is composed chiefly of young unmarried Men, not regularly fixed in any Situation or Employment; the other chosen in a great Measure from those who are settled among us, the Fathers of Families, by whom we are supplied with Hands in the several Branches of Trade, of Husbandry, &c. To take these Men from their various Occupations, without evident Reason, would distress whole Counties, and make us regret that we hesitated to join, in the laudable Emulation of serving our Country, by raising Supplies of less necessary People for our Fleets and Armies. The Militia may be assembled in a very short space of Time, ready disciplined, and upon the Spot to defend their dearest Enjoyments;

Enjoyments ; their valuable Priviledges of consistent Liberty and reasonable Government ; the Exercise of true Religion ; the Security of every worldly Blessing. But are we to permit our Regiments to dwindle away without filling up ; to consist of nothing but the Name ; to have an Army without Men ? Are we, by such Proceedings, to *invite* a Foe to come and dispute with us on this happy Island, if we make it not otherwise by our Dissentions, the Palm of Victory ; the Possession of our Property ; the Disposal of our Lives ; and the Destination of our Services ? We must know that to keep Sedition in awe, to prevent the Effusion of Blood at Home, Forces must be employed abroad. *Shall we then not subscribe to such a Measure, to fill up the Vacancies of those Regiments which have been voted by Parliament, which have been, and are to be paid by Parliament, which were employed by Parliament ;* and are intended to keep the Enemy from Home, or to replace those Troops which may be sent against them ? This is all that we are required to do. And shall the County of Norfolk, foremost in the List for independent Loyalty, be the first to scatter the Embers of Sedition ; to lay the Foundation of Civil Broils, by listening to the dangerous, artful, and unfair Representations of any Man, or Set of Men to the contrary ?

The Members of Opposition stand not upon fair Ground with those of Administration ; they have no share in the Management of Affairs,
and

and of Course no ill Construction whatever can be put upon their Actions, which are not brought to the Test. Government cannot stand still, and whatever is done by them, though with the best Intentions, is liable to Misconstruction; may be taken in different Lights; the worst has been too often adopted by the Opposition, and they have reasoned from unsuccessful Events, against their first Expedience and Probability. Every Disadvantage has been magnified, which the Failure of Success has appeared to justify from its Consequences, and seemed to leave no possible traces of Prudence in the Minds of Numbers, who must however be totally unacquainted with the Nature of Places and Circumstances; and can have no more Knowledge of, than what they receive from others; which they are too apt imbibe from those, who artfully apply themselves to the Passions, and join with you to condemn, what could not be prevented; what *they* must have pursued, had they been in Power, in Order to be just, to prove themselves your real Friends. If two Regiments at first, if eight more added to them have not effected the Suppression of the American Rebellion; whom are we to thank for it? To whom must we look for the Disappointment; but to those, who were not even for employing these in Time; whose ill-judged Opposition at Home, encouraged the Spirit of Revolt abroad, and gave a Strength to the Americans, unknown to themselves before? If vindictive Measures

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were not entered upon at first by Government ; does this prove a Disposition for Cruelty and Oppression? Was it from any other Motive, than of Tenderneſs for Fellow Subjects, an Inclination to think favourably of their Intentions, that they were not cruſhed in their firſt Attempts ? And have our Governors ſhewn leſs Attachment to the Interests of their Country, by their Exertions ſince, to reduce the Americans to their Duty, and bring them back to Happineſs and Tranquillity ? If they have not done enough for that End ; can we blame any others, than thoſe who have done their utmoſt to retard, perplex, and render their Measures ineffectual ? You have been taught to look upon the Provincials as affectionate Brethren and loyal Subjects : many without Doubt among them are ſo, and would prove themſelves ſuch, was it in their Power : ſeveral have ſuffered already from their ſteady Regard for you, and Remembrance of the Bleſſings they derived from you. But let us attend to the Principles of thoſe in Power there, of the firſt Movers of Sedition, and the Authors of theſe Commotions. Their Diſaffection was pronounced at the Cloſe of the laſt War, by many who are now reſident among us here ; who had been ſo for a very conſiderable Time among them ; and will vouch for the Truth of this Aſſertion, by producing, if Neceſſity required, Witneſſes of that Declaration for many Years before the Troubles began. If the moſt contemptuous Expreſſions againſt our Govern-
ment,

ment, not the Government of any particular Set of Men, but that of Great Britain ; if the most outrageous and violent Treatment of others, for the natural and decent Expression of their Attachment to the best of —, at their convivial Entertainments, in their unguarded Moments, when their Hearts were open and free from Hypocrisy ; if an Intention to shake off Allegiance to this Country was entertained by, and communicated to many ; if, on the Testimony of the most respectable Mariners trading thither, the Americans, in Defiance of the Act of Navigation, which was to restrain them from building Ships of Force, have nevertheless fitted up their trading Vessels so, that upon the shortest Notice they might act in a double Capacity, to carry on their Trade as usual, while they continued at Peace with us ; or to act as Ships of War, whenever a Pretence could be found to break with us ; if besides this, they had prepared the Frames of Vessels, which could in a very little Space of Time be put together as Privateers, though concealed for the present under rough Materials for building in various Places ; if we have known our Countrymen abused, insulted, *tarred and feathered*, merely for being Englishmen, then we may judge of American Affection and Loyalty. When Affairs were thus circumstanced, it was as ridiculous to condemn the assigned Reasons for this War, as it would have been imprudent in our Ministry, not to endeavour to check the accu-

mulating Evil. We have only to lament that they were not more resolved. If a mistaken, though we may almost say pardonable, Lenity had not withheld too much the Arm of Power, both Parties would have had much Reason to have rejoiced at the necessary Steps, which were taken here, to expose the real Views of the principal Leaders among them, and to prevent the evil Consequences of their Designs. Some Pretences were necessary to justify the American Proceedings to other Nations; how just those were which they adopted, I leave to be decided by every Man for himself from the many Publications on that Subject. But could we even suppose, that the first Beginnings of this War were not strictly constitutional towards them on our Part, which yet remains very much in Doubt at the least; if their deep laid Schemes were carried on with too much Art to be opposed in Time, *as many term it legally*, before they were ripe for Execution; were we to wait, though the Horizon had long been black with Clouds, suggesting the Prudence, perhaps the Necessity of Self-preservation; were we to sit still with Patience, till the Thunder burst over our Heads, and the Storm fell upon us; till they should think it proper and safe to justify a Breach by superior Power? Opposition by Expedience? Will you say the French are not guilty of Perfidy, and not to be opposed for entering into Engagements with the Americans, so contrary to our Interest, because it is convenient and

and advantageous to them? Because too we shall break the Peace with them? They assure you it is with no evil Intentions towards us: Are we to be content with this State of Things? America finds it likewise for her Purpose to forget the Millions of Treasure and Thousands of Lives, which have been devoted by us to her Establishment and Support: they wish therefore to be independent, that is, to trade with other Nations whom they may like better than ourselves; and declare they intend us no Harm. They did not immediately break out first into avowed Hostilities; but put Things into such a State, that you were obliged to do it; and have endeavoured ever since to perplex you with Remonstrance after Remonstrance; with Petitions which they knew could not be consistently accepted; with Offers which they never meant to abide by long; which could have no Check upon their future Schemes; *and by leaving them now in their present State, would leave them much better prepared, than at the Beginning of the present Contest, for a Renewal of it at a more favourable Opportunity.* Had in general a Spirit of Loyalty and Gratitude prevailed; had it found a Place with the interested Fomenters of this Rebellion; had they not been *preparing* for the Struggle, the smallest Number of our Forces would have awed them into Obedience, and reduced them within reasonable Bounds. It is true we have Numbers disposed to join their Interests with ours, of unshaken Fidelity and Affection;

Affection; but cannot shew themselves without the Means and Weapons of War, nor come at any in a Country, so much already in the Power of the other Party, who have armed all their Adherents, and are upon the Watch to crush, at the first, any, the least Opposition to their Measures; whose deep-laid Projects were unfathomable, and hardly to be suspected by the Moderate and Dispassionate, through whose Indolence and Inattention a Country is very often brought to the Verge of Destruction, before they are well apprised that any Thing is meditating against its Welfare. (I mean not here the circumspectly calm in their Undertakings, the cool yet prudently active for their Country's Good; but those who can remain ignobly quiet in the Midst of impending Ruin, and refuse, till it is too late, to take a Part which might prevent it.) The Intentions of the present American Rulers were seconded, by the Surprize of all the Posts and Offices of Power, essential to their Plan; by an Address to the Passions of the Common People, to swell the Ideas of their own Importance, and prejudice their Minds by popular Delusions. The Consequences, as sudden as unexpected, could not be opposed or provided against by our Well-wishers there: Deprivation of Property succeeded; Imprisonment, Insult and cruel Treatment followed to the Friends of England; and Numbers have sacrificed their all; have even encountered Death in horrid Shapes, rather than
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be unfaithful to us. It is not for us now to cavil at the Measures, and quarrel, because some may think that the War did not commence in the most constitutional Manner on our Side; though even that is strongly contended for, and very ably defended by many. If their Intentions were such, as we have too much Reason to alledge, from their past and present Transactions; from what has been long well known to be going forward; the War was not commenced too soon, not soon enough indeed, for their and our Advantage.

Instead of a unanimous and vigorous Endeavour to extricate you from your Difficulties, every Means have been employed to the contrary, by many among us, every Argument strained beyond its Power; even at this Instant, when their own Proposals are adopted, something must be found to give them a different Complexion; the Times, say they, are not the same; Circumstances are altered; it is too late, and they will be refused: they have entered into Engagements with France, and cannot accept your Proposals. Suppose we were to allow this Reasoning to be just, we may fairly challenge the same Concessions from them, and ask, for what Purpose they now contend for us to acknowledge the American Independence, and yet speak against the Offer of the very condescending Terms which are sent over there? Can they break with France in one Respect, and not another? Are they not under the same Obligations
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in both Cases ? The same Treaties subsist, and must have equal Weight with them. For what then is there any Opposition at this Time to the Measures of Government ? If we can do Service to our Country, why should we with-hold it, when so much wanted ? When the Vessel is agitated with Storms, and tossed with Tempests, what shall we think of any one who still refuses to lend a helping Hand, where he is confident of preserving her in Safety, merely because he has not been employed before ; or liked another Station better than what was allotted to him ; or because the Hands aboard were not set aside at his Demand, for others whom he wanted to oblige ? Wherein would his boasted Attention to her, and professed Regard for the Owner consist, if he permitted her to be lost from such Principles, when perhaps he might have otherwise brought her safely into the Harbour ? Is it a Time to wrangle from Motives of Interest, Ambition, Pique or Vanity for the Satisfaction of ourselves, or any others in Opposition to our Country's Cause ? O Patriotism, to what art thou reduced ! Let the generous Spirit of a Briton animate every one, who has the least Pretensions to the Name : Let him be ready to step forwards in the glorious Emulation of serving the Nation, to which he is indebted for his Birth, and forgetting the past, let him bury in Oblivion all private Gratifications, which are not consistent with such a Design. Not only the Measures have been opposed, but the Men,
who

who have been employed in the painful Struggle, to restore Tranquillity to both Countries, have been abused by every Species of artful Declamation ; they have been inveighed against as the Foes of Liberty ; as the Tools of arbitrary Mandate : the keenest Arrows of Reproach have been shot off against them ; they have been the publick Mark of Obloquy and Detraction. The brave and hardy Scotchmen, the loyal Inhabitants of the same Island with ourselves, have been pointed out as the Objects of Detestation ; and for what ? For espousing the Cause of well-regulated Liberty, and the Honour of Britain ; in Defence of England and themselves ; to preserve the necessary and reasonable Connexion between the Colonies and the Parent State : for this their Lives have been freely exposed, their dearest Blood been shed : (the Memory of the gallant *Frazer* and his Followers cannot soon be lost.) They are eager to recover our Losses ; they pant for an Opportunity to revenge any Insult upon us ; to place us, in Conjunction with the rest of our Forces, in that respectable Light, which alone can give Weight to our Offers for an Accommodation, and be the only Means of effecting this ; an English Spirit animates them in the Cause of Britain. If the Grounds of this unhappy War have been mistaken by them, their Principles were however noble ; the Attempt was generous, to restore America to us, and us to America. They have embarked in a common Concern, and are they

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to be reviled for it? If past Transactions cannot be remembered, as they ought not to be viewed (when at all) without Horror, are we to find no Place in our Memory, for their strenuous Endeavours at this Time, to obliterate and wipe off the Stain? If I ask whether the sacred Glow of Freedom becomes a Man less, because the *Tweed* divides him from us, I do not mean to check the Ardor, to lessen the Reputation of my more immediate Country-Men. But is Liberty inconsistent with a firm Attachment to our King and Country? Is it not rather founded on these Supports inseparably connected together? Are not these manifested strongly by them at the present Juncture? Forbear then all national Reflexions. They bear, and glory in the Name of Briton with us; one Parliament represents us both; the British Senate is composed of Englishmen and Scotch; for this invaluable Privilege they have given up every separate Right, and are anxious to spring forward in the Lists of Honour and Loyalty. Let Englishmen contend with them in this alone, and (as I am sure they will not be behind Hand with them in any commendable Virtue, when left to the uncorrupted Dictates of their Hearts,) they will have no Reason to repine at any partial Distribution of Favours, or be jealous of that Proportion which is due, *which alone* would be maintained towards their Brethren of Scotland. But shall we hesitate what Part to take as Affairs are now circumstanced? When the Honour of our
Country

Country is at Stake? The Security of it in some Danger? Its Existence perhaps as a Nation doubtful? Shall we jarr any longer with one-another, to find out whether the Americans wish to be independent? Whether they have really courted the Assistance of Foreign Powers, in Order to throw off all Allegiance to us? Shall we endeavour to set aside every Effort to maintain that Supremacy, on which we see depends every Advantage which we all think, or would appear to think, should redound to this Country alone from our Colonies, in Return for nursing them up to their present Greatness, by our dearest Blood and Treasure? Even the Party not in Power *declare* the Importance of preserving the Connexion with our revolted Brethren, whatever they may seriously mean by their Opposition to Government, especially at this Time. They would throw you upon the Affection and Attachment of the Americans towards you, when at the same Time they alledge, that Matters have been carried to that Extremity, as to have eradicated even the Traces of it. They would have you acknowledge the Independence of the Colonies, in Hopes to engage them in Alliance with us, when they are already firmly connected with another Kingdom. They may hold it out to you as an Argument, *upon the Faith of a French Ambassador*, that they have not so restrained themselves by the Treaty with France, but that they are at Liberty, *if you cultivate their Good Graces*, to trade with you, *as long as they*

shall find it for their Interest. Can we then suppose, that so artful and politick a Power as France, would thus support, protect, and encourage them, without some considerable and certain Advantages? That they would leave them fully at large, to return to their natural Connexion with us, without Fee or Reward? Would it be prudent in the Provincials to desert a People, who have espoused their Cause against us, though from the Motives of their own Interest? Should a Reverse of Fortune ever happen, where would they fly for Succour? Who would afford them Refuge or Assistance? *What kind of a Peace can we hope for then? What Degree of Advantage could redound to us, by trusting to their Affection or Inclinations towards us, more than for any other People? If because, and only because, we are not unanimous in exerting our Power against them, we should be obliged to acknowledge their Independence, to submit to the Terms they think proper to dictate, What is to become of England, without an Ability to enforce the Navigation Act, by which they are restrained from building Ships of War? With Independence we must give them up the Dominion of the Seas. We must expect to see the natural Bulwark and Defence of this Island humbled and reduced; ourselves of Course exposed to the Ambition and Attempts, nay, perhaps to the Superiority of any insolent Invader. If left entirely to themselves, if under no Controul, with such Abundance*

dance of Materials for Building, and so extensive a Coast, we may, we must expect to see the insulting Fleets of America, should they condescend at any Time to visit our Parts, waving their proud or hostile Banners in Defiance or Contempt. This great commerical Nation, which depends upon the Seas, whose Riches and Power are derived under Providence from the Waters, must bend and truckle to her Children, and ask *them* Leave, how far *she* may venture to extend her Trade *without Offence or Intrusion*. Can Englishmen submit to this, while they have an Arm to wield the Sword, and the Means to procure one? While it may yet be in their Power to hinder it, by uniting their Strength and Councils at Home? Shall we see them league with our inveterate Enemy? Shall we suffer them to remain, in Fact, under the Power of France, to enrich that treacherous and powerful Neighbour with their Wealth, and make no Attempts to recover them to ourselves? *This is now the Point proposed, for this you are called upon for your Support.* Is the Necessity of it less, because you may have been told beforehand, that you would be thus applied to, for Union against the Common Enemy, as well as America? Does it stand you less in Hand to be active and resolute, because some Persons to lessen the Weight of this Argument, could it be done, have declared in Publick that it would be made Use of? They confessed the Strength of it in so doing. They foresaw likewise, as well as Government,

Government, to what Things were coming, and must come; Wonderful Discernment! They foresaw, but did nothing to prevent; as I hope to have proved, that the only Method they have proposed—Of giving Way to the Americans—must have been inconsistent with sound Policy: and though the Exertions of Government were great to check the Evil, which they were equally aware of with their Opponents; yet the Encouragement which has been received from hence, by our Divisions and jarring Councils, have rendered these Means ineffectual; though the Prospect be still very far from desperate, if we are not wanting to ourselves. Commerce, the Support of this Isle, sits flitting with her Wings; with Looks, more than half averted, towards America and France; let us keep her with us while we can, and recover our Colonies from our perfidious Enemy, into whose Arms they have thrown themselves, to our Ruin, if not prevented. If the Building is tottering, as is given out, it must be idle to spend that Time in condemning those, whom *we may be told* to be the Authors of it, which should be employed in supporting it: And when it is in Danger, every one who is concerned in its Safety, should lend a helping Hand to rear it up again. Be then no longer deceived. *Let the insulting Frenchman know, that we can chastise his Arrogance, and curb his Power.* Let us teach each haughty Foe, what it is to rouse the Spirit of an injured Nation, which can resent and avenge, as well as forbear.

forbear. We are called upon to prosecute the War with Vigour, from even the Principles of Humanity. Our Hearts are deeply concerned in the Contest, more than at first Sight we may imagine. Our Sensibility is strongly appealed to. The Goals and Prisons of the American Continent are crowded with our Friends, who are suffering for our common Cause, exposed to every Calamity; with nothing to relieve their Wretchedness, but their honest Principles, the Rectitude of their Conduct, and the Hopes of being rescued by us from their miserable Condition. To desert them, forbid it Heaven! forbid it Honour, Gratitude and Justice! Let us not be equally ungrateful with those whom we condemn for it, with so much, though not less reasonable Censure. Marked out for Vengeance in Case of Success, exposed to Contempt and Reproach, deprived of Property and the Means of Existence, shall we give them up, while we may have it in our Power to hinder it, to feel and sink entirely under the Oppression and Resentment of their Adversaries? Shall we leave them to the cruel Mercy of their insulting Countrymen? A Briton cannot permit it, while he has Life or Sense.

The County of Norfolk has had every Method practised upon it, from mistaken, I would hope, not depraved Principles, to prevent the Inhabitants from appearing among the foremost, in the arduous and painful, though necessary Struggle for their Country. To stand forth, at
this

this Time, has been urged as a Term of Reproach to Minds misguided, uninformed. But why not set the glorious Example to their Countrymen? Why not step forward to preserve the Reputation we have gained more than once, of being the Friends of England; the Protectors and Avengers of our King and Country? To do it at this Time, may be perhaps to prevent the Effusion of Blood at our own Doors. *Our Militia is now called forth; by which the Attention of Government is shown to our Constitutional Security: There can be no Doubt* therefore of the Alacrity and Assistance of those Gentlemen, who have founded their professed Attachment to this Country on such a Measure. *A Foreign Enemy threatens, our natural Foe has thrown aside the Mask at last; and avows a Part the most prejudicial to this Kingdom; Subscriptions therefore will not be wanting to enable us to oppose their hostile Intentions. But though we may, and ought to arise in Vengeance against the Treachery, the Insolence of France, and Ingratitude of America; let it reach no further to our Brethren abroad, than to lay a necessary Curb upon their impolitick Intentions, impolitick both for them and us, by joining the Olive Branch with the Sword, under every possible and prudent Appearance; and when crowned, by the Blessing of Providence, with Success, let the Arm of Power be restrained, by the Remembrance of well tempered MERCY and the return of AFFECTION.*

F I N I S.



